GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:176
ANSWERED ON:13.08.2007
GENETIC ENGINEERING TESTS
Bhadana Shri Avtar Singh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the farmers are ignorant about the genetic engineering tests conducted by the Government and it is endangering the crops and plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a), (b) & (c): The Government of India through Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has provided financial assistance during the year 2006-07 to Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL), New Delhi to organize public awareness workshops on issues related to Genetically Modified crops with a focus on post release monitoring in all the cotton growing States in the country. BCIL has organized these workshops at State level as well as District level in all the genetically modified (GM) Bt. Cotton growing states. Similar efforts were undertaken by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research in various GM cotton growing areas. Publications in local languages highlighting the methods of cultivation of Bt. Cotton were distributed to farmers. Kisan Goshti was conducted in Maharashtra.

These public awareness endeavor educated farmers about the risk associated with the spurious GM seeds and post release management of GM crops, especially Bt. Cotton.